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Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 /102 W
---------- 014972
R 161248Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY
SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS ON LEBANON CONTINUE

REF CAIRO 12390,

SUMMARY: SADAT MEETS WITH GEMAYEL, SA'IB SALAM AND MUFTI HASAN KHALID. OTHER MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT LOWER LEVELS. OPTIMISM STILL PREVAILS AMID TALK OF ROUND TABLE LEBANESE DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO. SHI'ITE IMAM ANNOUNCES TOP LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN GOE AND SARG ON LEBANON IN NEAR FUTURE. GEMAYEL DEINES THAT PHALANGE RECEIVING ISRAELI ARMS AND BLAMES INTERNATIONAL LEFT FOR LEBANESE CRISIS. APPOINTMENT OF CHAMOUN
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AS ACTIONG LEBANESE PRIMIN BRIEFLY REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT.

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END SUMMARY

1. PARADE OF LEBANESE LEADERS TO EGYPT CONTINUES. PRES SADAT MET 15 SEPT IN MIT ABU AL-KOM WITH PHALANGIST LEADER GEMAYEL, WITH DEPRIMIN FONMIN FAHM IN ATTENDANCE. FORMER PRIMIN SALAM MET OVER TWO HOURS WITH PRIMIN SALIM SEPT 15 AND WILL MEET WITH SADAT TODAY. SHAIKH HASAN KHALID, MUFTI OF LEBANON, WILL ALSO MEET (SEPARATELY) WITH SADAT TODAY. FAHMY MET WITH SHI'ITE IMAM MUSA SADR SEPT 15 AND MINCULTURE AND INFO OTEIFY MET WITH GEMAYEL, PRESUMABLY AFTER LATTER'S TALK WITH SADAT. LOCAL JOURNALISTS TELL US THAT CONSID-ERABLE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MEETING SEPT 15 BETWEEN PRIMIN KARAMI AND BASHIR GEMAYEL, WHO APPARENTLY VISITING IN CAIRO WITH HIS FATHER.

2. LOCAL DAILES INDICATE THAT JUMBLATT VISIT HAD BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE HE UNWILLING TO TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS TO TAKE PLANE TO CAIRO. NOW JUMBLATT REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE SPECIAL AL PLANE FROM BEIRUT AIRPORT DIRECTLY TO CAIRO ON UNSPECIFIED DATE.

3. MOOD OF LOCAL DAILIES RE LEBANESE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUES HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC AND PAPERS CITE SPECULATION OF "POLITICAL SOURCES IN BEIRUT" THAT ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN LEBANON MAY BE HELD (DATE UNSPECIFIED) AT QUBA PALACE IN CAIRO UNDER SUPERVISION OF PRES SADAT HIMSELF.

4. IMAM MUSA SADR AGAIN RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN LOCAL PRESS. SADR STATED HE CONFIDENT LEBANESE CRISIS WILL END WITHININ MONTH AND THAT "PRACTICAL STEPS WILL BE TAKEN WITHIN A WEEK" TO RESTORE SECURITY TO LEBANON. HE SPECULATED THAT "TOP LEVEL MEETINGS" BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD IN COMING FEW DAYS NOW THAT "ACCUMULATED DIFFERENCES IMPEDING SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN SOLIDARITY HAVE BEEN REMOVED." SADR AFFIRMED THAT LEBANESE SOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION.

5. IN INTERVIEW WITH AKHBAR ARAB AFFAIRS EDITOR, GEMAYEL STATED THAT ALL LEBANESE SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CAUSE BUT "SABOTEURS USED BY INTERNATIONAL LEFT" RESPONSIBLE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CURRENT PHALANGE OPPOSITION TO SOME PLO ELEMENTS. GEMAYEL NOTED THAT SYRIA MEMBER OF AL AND UN AND HAS PLEDGED, AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF WORLD COMMUNITY, TOWITHDRAW FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY WHEN LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITY SO REQUESTS. AT PRESENT, LEBANON "DROWNING PERSON CLINGING TO STRAW (SYRIA) AND THIS SITUATION CAUSED BY INTERNATIONAL LEFT AND COMMUNISTS WHO ATTACKING LEBANON." GEMAYEL STRONGLY DENIED THAT PHALANGISTS RECEIVING ISRAELI ARMS AND STATED

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THAT PICKTURES OF PHALANGIST FORCES WEARING CROSSES WHILE
KILLING MUSLIMS MERELY CHEAP WEAPON IN HANDS OF TRAITORS
AND SPIES WHO TRYING TO CAUSE SECTARIAN STRIFE IN LEBANON.

6. GOVT MODIFICATIONS ANNOUNCED SEPT 15 BY FRANJIYA,
STRIPPINGKARAMI OF PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENSE, FINANCE AND
INFORMATION AND NAMING CHAMOUN ACTING PRIMIN NOTED WITHOUT
MUCH COMMENT IN CAIRO DAILIES AND GEMAYEL STATEMENT THAT HE HAD
BEEN UNAWARE OF THIS IMPENDING ACTION DULY NOTED BY PRESS.
NO SPECULATION AS TO SIGNIFICANCE OF MOVES BY FRANJIYA,
EIGHT DAYS BEFORE INSTALLATION OF SARKIS, CARRIED IN LOCAL
PRESS OTHER THAN ANODYNE COMMENT THAT WITH CHAMOUN AS ACT-
ING PRIMIN, FRANJIYA AND CHAMOUN CAN CONVENE CABINET MEET-
INGS AND MAKE DECISIONS IN ABSENCE OF KARAMI. NEWS OF FRAN-
JIYA MOVE MAY HAVE COME TOO LATE FOR EXTENSIVE PRESS COMM-
ENTARY SEPT 16.

7. COMMENT: LOCAL MOOD OF OPTIMISM REGARDING LEBANESE TALKS
STILL PREVAILS ALTHOUGH FRANJIYA-CHAMOUN MOVE AGAINST KARAMI,
WHICH UNDERCUTS SARKIS BEFORE HE EVEN ASSUMES OFFICE,
CERTAINLY STRIKES AMINOUS NOTE. THERE NO SPECULATION IN LOCAL
PRESS AS TO WHETHER CHAMOUN DISCUSSED MOVE AGAINST KARAMI
DURING MOST RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS, BUT MOVE WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY REMIND LEBANESE VISITORS TO CAIRO THAT THEY
HAD BETTER NOT FORGET CHRISTIAN HARD LINERS. AS YET, THERE
NO SPECULATION FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS OR IN LOCAL DAILIES
AS TO HOW AND WHEN CAHAMOUN AND HIS NLP FORCES CAN BE BROUGHT
INTO LINE.
MATTHEWS

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